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TESTIMONY OF
ROBERT SIDMAN, MD
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SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 11, 2011

**HB 6545, An Act Concerning the Provision of Prophylactic
And Emergency Care To Hospital Patients**

The William W. Backus Hospital in Norwich, Connecticut, appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6545, An Act Concerning the Provision of Prophylactic And Emergency Care To Hospital Patients**. Backus Hospital supports this bill.

Backus Hospital operates a full-service Emergency Department on its main hospital campus, and is currently creating a 24-hour-a-day satellite emergency center in the town of Plainfield. During the 2010 Fiscal Year (ended September 30, 2010), Backus Hospital had 65,561 visits to the Emergency Department. Backus operates the only Trauma Center east of the Connecticut River. One of the state's LIFE STAR helicopters is stationed at Backus Hospital, under a highly successful 11-year relationship with Hartford Hospital. Backus provides the hangar — a full-scale support facility — for the aircraft. Approximately 40 percent of all LIFE STAR flights in Connecticut originate from Backus.

HB 6545 would allow hospitals to utilize protocols and policies, often called "standing orders," after an assessment for contraindications. Such orders would need to be in accordance with a physician-approved hospital policy; used for care that is emergent, timely and necessary or to advance patient care, and; only as permitted by 42 CFR Part 482, the CMS Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has clarified its endorsement of the use of standing orders in a communication to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The communication was in response to an AAP request that CMS clarify the rule on standing orders because many in the provider community, and many state oversight agencies, were under the mistaken impression that standing orders were not permitted.

HB 6545 will remove any confusion for providers, and for the Department of Public Health, as to whether Connecticut supports standing orders. In so doing, this would move us forward to achieving better care outcomes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sidman, MD
Chief of Emergency Services